

Amendment in Reply to the Decision on Appeal mailed on April 10, 2009
and the Final Office Action mailed on November 21, 2006

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Decision on Appeal mailed April 10, 2009, and the Final Office Action mailed on November 21, 2006, which have been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 11-15 and 17-21 remain in this application, where claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 11, 14 and 21 are independent.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claim 10 contains patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1, 11, 14 and 21 have been amended to include the features of allowable claim 10 which have been canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent

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claims 1, 11, 14 and 21 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully requested that claims 2-9, 12-13, 15 and 17-20 also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1, 11 and 14 as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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